GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3216
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
POPULARISATION OF CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of emergency contraceptive pills has been permitted over the counter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any study has been conducted relating to its safety aspect; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to popularize the contraceptive pills among the women particularly in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Yes, sir. Based on the opinion of a Group of Experts on its safety, the Drug, Levonorgestrel 0.7mg tablet (Emergency Contraceptive pills) has been exempted from the requirement of sale against prescription from Registered Medical Practitioners. This would also improve its access among women particularly in rural areas.

(d) The measures being taken to popularize contraceptive pills include free supply to states for distribution, supply through Social Marketing Organisations (SMOs) at highly subsidized prices and publicity through electronic/print media all over the country etc.